

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: NATO, ETRN

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN U.S.

REF: USNATO 5114

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MISSION ALSO INTENDED TO PROPOSE US HOSTING VISIT OF NATO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES WAS BASED ON STAFF LEVEL EXPLORATION WITH OASD/ISA. THERE WERE FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS AT MISSION, STATE AND DOD ACTION OFFICER LEVEL DURING YEARLY INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCES IN EARLY OCTOBER.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT REGULAR U.S. HOSTING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE VISITS HAS BEEN MOST USEFUL. THEY HAVE RESULTED IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. PROBLEMS AND SYMPATHETIC DISPOSITION TOWARDS U.S. BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR ALLIES WHO ARE IN A POSITION
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TO GREATLY INFLUENCE DECISIONS AFFECTING CONSTRUCTION

UNDER THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM. THEY HAVE ALSO
IN OUR VIEW, SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE LARGE
PROPORTION OF U.S. PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER THE PROGRAM,
AND THE VERY FAVORABLE RESULTS OBTAINED IN OUR
NEGOTIATIONS ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR RELOCATION COSTS.
WE HAD THOUGHT THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN
WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE OUR SHARE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE PROGRAM, AND RETAIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORTH-
WHILE TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SECDEF APPROVAL OF A
REGULAR VISIT NEXT YEAR TO INSURE CONTINUED GOOD WILL
BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
OUR PROBLEMS BY NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHO
WERE NOT HERE IN 1967.

3. WE NOTE YOU DO NOT INTEND TO RECOMMEND A VISIT
IN 1974, AND WE ARE PREPARED, OF COURSE, TO ACCEDE
TO YOUR PREFERENCE. HOWEVER, IN INTEREST OF
MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH COMMITTEES, THEY
SHOULD BE INFORMED AT A TIME WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED
TO BE LEAST DAMAGING TO OUR INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM
THAT THE US WILL BE UNABLE TO ARRANGE A VISIT IN
1974, BUT THAT WE HOPE SUCH A VISIT WILL NOT BE
DEFERRED UNDULY.

KISSINGER

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